

Serial No.: 10/092,113  
Examiner: Gopal C. Ray

**In the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph [001] beginning at page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0001] This application discloses subject matter related to the subject matter disclosed in the following commonly owned co-pending patent application(s): (i) "Backplane System And Method For Introducing Non-Standard Signals," Application No.: 10/092,052, filed March 5, 2002, in the names of: Ignacio A. Linares, Robert S. Gammenthaler, Jr., and Gerald R. Dubois (~~Attorney Docket No.: 1285-0083US~~).

Please replace the paragraph [002] beginning at page 1, with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0002] The following commonly owned co-pending patent application is hereby incorporated by reference herein for all purposes: "Clock Distribution Scheme In A Signaling Server," Application No.: 09/541,002, filed March 31, 2000, in the name(s) of: Val Teodorescu, now U.S. Patent No. 6,643,791 issued November 4, 2003.

Please replace the paragraph [0036] beginning on page 17, with the following rewritten paragraph.

[0036] Various proprietary signals may be advantageously carried on the secondary signal bus path created on the backplane of the present invention. In telecom network equipment applications where the present invention may be advantageously employed, e.g., in a signaling server rack, several application-specific system control signals and status signals may be carried on the "split" backplane in addition to the standard CPCI bus signals across a number of line cards. For example, a Super Frame Indicator (SFI) signal operable to control the overall operation of a Next-Generation STP, or an Extended Alarm Signal (EAS) operable to encode the STP's line card alarm/status information may be carried on the secondary bus path created in accordance herewith. Additional details regarding these and other related proprietary signals may be found in the following commonly owned co-pending patent application entitled "Clock

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Distribution Scheme In A Signaling Server," Application No.: 09/541,002, filed March 31, 2000, in the name(s) of: Val Teodorescu, now U.S. Patent 6,643,791, issued November 4, 2003, which patent application has been cross-referenced hereinabove.